



CHESTER J. CULVER  
GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE  
LT. GOVERNOR

June 29, 2010

Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Senator Tom Harkin  
Representative Leonard L. Boswell  
Representative Bruce Braley  
Representative Steve A. King  
Representative Tom Latham  
Representative David Loebsack

Dear Sirs:

Last Friday, I visited areas of Southeast Iowa and met with a number of farmers regarding damages they were experiencing as a result of this spring's severe weather and rain events. Many of these areas have received more than 28 inches of rain since mid-April. These storms have prevented planting of crops, damaged emerging plants, prevented re-planting, and prevented the harvesting of hay and other forage crops resulting in significant production losses. I have requested the Farm Service Agency collect Loss Assessment Reports (LARs) for the affected areas and expect to receive the findings and recommendations of the State Emergency Board within the next two weeks. However, as we discussed agricultural damages and the need for assistance programs a matter of critical importance requiring your action was brought to my attention.

On June 18, 2008, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 was enacted, amending Public Law 110-246. One of the five new disaster programs created in the Act is the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program. This program is designed to provide emergency assistance to farmers who sustain significant crop losses. Reportedly, there have been significant delays in getting these payments into the hands of eligible farmers. For example, payments are only now being made to farmers who sustained damages resulting from the 2008 floods. Not only did farmers sustain damages in 2008 but many have incurred repetitive losses as they have experienced other significant weather related events over the past few months. Farmers simply cannot afford to make continued investment, experience significant repetitive loss, and wait for assistance payments.

It is my understanding that a statutory change may be needed to correct this situation and meet the spirit of the law for providing emergency assistance. Therefore, I respectfully request a technical correction bill be pursued that would provide for advance partial payments calculated on production projections under the SURE



program. I recommend allowing up to 50% advanced payments based on the six month rolling commodity average. This advanced payment approach has been authorized for other general farm assistance programs.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts in addressing this critical improvement to Public Law 110-246.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chester J. Culver', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chester J. Culver  
Governor, State of Iowa

Cc: Mr. John Whitaker, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, United States Department of Agriculture